

6/8/64

Airtel

1 -

b6  
b7C

REC-32

139-1990-1

To: SAC, Birmingham

From: Director, FBI

THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

*pc*

Reurairtel 6/4/64.

By return mail surep setting forth complaint of  in order that it may be appropriately disseminated to the Department.

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JWH/ras  
(4) *ras*

NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that , stated he had received an anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone lineman. This person told  that his line had been tapped by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963.  for defamation of character and said that he was furnishing the information to the FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit. Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

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MAILED 5

JUN 8 1964

COMM-FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

61 JUN 12 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 6/4/64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-NEW) (C)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC  
(OO: BIRMINGHAM)

JAF  
Montgomery  
Complainant

On June 3, 1964, [redacted] telephonically advised that he had received an anonymous telephone call from an individual who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that sometime during the Fall of 1963, while the investigation concerning the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church was in progress, THOMAS LANKFORD, reporter for the Birmingham News, tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box next to [redacted] home.

[redacted] stated he was arrested in 1960, in connection with the beating of Freedom Riders at the Birmingham Bus Terminal, on Mother's Day. [redacted] stated that he was subsequently acquitted on assault charges stemming from this incident, and [redacted] for alleged defamation of character, resulting from publicity focused by the News on [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the reason he is furnishing this information to the FBI was that he feared information which was possibly gained by LANKFORD would be used in connection with his civil trial. [redacted] was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tapping cases is dependent upon publication of the unlawfully obtained information.

3-Bureau

4-Birmingham (2 - 139-NEW) REC-32

(1 - 157-352) (BAPBOMB)

(1 - 157-411) [redacted]

RM:ela

(7)

MCT-13

139-1990-1

11 JUN 9 1964

filed to BH  
6-8-64  
JWH/las

C C Wick

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent [Signature]

M

Per [Signature]

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b7Db6  
b7C  
b7Db6  
b7C  
b7Db6  
b7C  
b7D

BH 139-NEW

Due to the vagueness and lack of corroboration concerning these facts, no action will be taken on this matter at the present time, UACB.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	DATE <b>6/10/64</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/3 - 4/64</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>THOMAS LANKFORD</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>ROBERT MURPHY</b>	TYPED BY <b>rvm</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>UPUC</b>	

REFERENCE: Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 6/4/64.  
Bureau airtel to Birmingham, 6/8/64.

- C -

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

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No description of LANKFORD furnished since [ ]  
could not supply same.

APPROVED  
COPIES MADE:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

② - Bureau

3 - Birmingham (139-26)

139-1990-	2	ST 1022
16 JUN 12 1964		
LBI		

## DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	REQUEST RECD.	DATE FWD.	HOW FWD.	BY

## NOTATIONS

STAT. SECT.

22 JUN 25 1964 303

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA ROBERT MURPHY  
Date: 6/10/64

N

Office: Birmingham, Alabama

Field Office File No.: 139-26

Bureau File No.:

Title: THOMAS LANKFORD

Character: UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Synopsis: On 6/3/64, [redacted] advised that an anonymous telephone call, purportedly from a telephone company lineman, advised him his telephone had been tapped during the Fall of 1963 by THOMAS LANKFORD, employee of "Birmingham News". [redacted] [redacted] for defamation of character concerning publicity given to assault charges against [redacted] in 1960. Security Department, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, advised of allegation and no evidence of wire tap found.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/10/64Informant

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephonically advised he recently received an anonymous telephone call from an individual who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that during the Fall of 1963, THOMAS LANKFORD, an employee of "The Birmingham News", had tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box outside [redacted] house. [redacted] stated he had also observed LANKFORD parked in a green panel truck with one-way glass near his house during the Fall of 1963 and when he, [redacted] approached LANKFORD and asked what he was doing there, LANKFORD replied he was watching the road and working with the Sheriff's Office.

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[redacted] stated he found a transmitter set at 98.75 megacycles FM in his car during the Fall of 1963 and believes this was also placed there by LANKFORD, since LANKFORD is well known as a "wire tapper". He could not elaborate on this.

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b7D

[redacted] stated the reason his line was tapped was because [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] stated the reason he was passing along this information concerning LANKFORD was because he feared that some information gained from the tap would be used in his civil suit when it comes to trial.

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He was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tap matters is based on publication of the information, and that without evidence of publication no Federal violation would exist.

On 6/3/64 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 139-26  
by SA ROBERT MURPHY - HSS/rvm Date dictated 6/8/64

BH 139-26

On June 3, 1964, SAC RAY L. FAISST advised Mr. [redacted] State Security Manager, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, Alabama, of the complaint received from [redacted]

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On June 4, 1964, [redacted] advised SA(A) DONALD GUTHRIE that a check of [redacted] telephone line reflected no indication of wire tapping.

6/22/64

1 - Mr. Swanson

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham  
From: Director, FBI (139-1990)  
THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

ReBuairtel 6/8/64.

Advise date report submitted and name of reporting Agent. If not already submitted, submit immediately advising reasons for delay.

HCS/ras  
(4)

NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that [redacted] b6  
[redacted] stated he had received an b7C  
anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone b7D  
lineman. This person told [redacted] that his line had been tapped  
by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963.  
[redacted] for defamation of  
character and said that he was furnishing the information to the  
FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping  
his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit.  
Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

MAILED 22

JUN 22 1964

COMM-FBI

REC-46

139-1990-3

19 JUN 22 1964

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

64 JUN 25 1964 [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]



F B I

Date: 6-23-64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI (139-1990)  
FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-26) (C)  
THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

ReBUAirtel 6-22-64.

Report of SA ROBERT MURPHY submitted by Birmingham under  
date 6-10-64.

3-Bureau (AM)  
1-Birmingham  
AMS:rlg  
(4)

REC-13

139-1990-4

JUN 25 1964

EX 101

C C - VICK

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_